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AUTHORITY: 38 U.S.C. 101, 501, 1710, 1741–1743.

SOURCE: 65 FR 968, Jan. 6, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 51.1 Purpose.

This part sets forth the mechanism for paying per diem to State homes providing nursing home care to eligible veterans and is intended to ensure that veterans receive high quality care in State homes.

§ 51.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

Clinical nurse specialist means a licensed professional nurse with a master's degree in nursing with a major in a clinical nursing specialty from an academic program accredited by the National League for Nursing and at least 2 years of successful clinical practice in the specialized area of nursing practice following this academic preparation.

Facility means a building or any part of a building for which a State has submitted an application for recognition as a State home for the provision of nursing home care or a building or any part of a building which VA has recognized as a State home for the provision of nursing home care.

Nurse practitioner means a licensed professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the State; who meets the State's requirements governing the qualifications of nurse practitioners; and who is currently certified as an adult, family, or gerontological nurse practitioner by the American Nurses' Association.

Nursing home care means the accommodation of convalescents or other persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care, but who require skilled nursing care and related medical services.

Physician means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine or surgery in the State.

Physician assistant means a person who meets the applicable State requirements for physician assistant, is currently certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as a physician assistant, and has an individualized written scope of practice that determines the authorization to write medical orders, prescribe medications and other clinical tasks under appropriate physician supervision which is approved by the primary care physician.

Primary physician or primary care physician means a designated generalist physician responsible for providing, directing and coordinating all health care that is indicated for the residents.

State means each of the several States, territories, and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

State home means a home approved by VA which a State established primarily for veterans disabled by age, disease, or otherwise, who by reason of such disability are incapable of earning a living. A State home may provide domiciliary care, nursing home care, adult day health care, and hospital care. Hospital care may be provided only when

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the State home also provides domiciliary and/or nursing home care.

VA means the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subpart B—Obtaining Per Diem for Nursing Home Care in State Homes

§ 51.10 Per diem based on recognition and certification.

VA will pay per diem to a State for providing nursing home care to eligible veterans in a facility if the Under Secretary for Health recognizes the facility as a State home based on a current certification that the facility and facility management meet the standards of subpart D of this part. Also, after recognition has been granted, VA will continue to pay per diem to a State for providing nursing home care to eligible veterans in such a facility for a temporary period based on a certification that the facility and facility management provisionally meet the standards of subpart D.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101, 501, 1710, 1741–1743)

§ 51.20 Application for recognition based on certification.

To apply for recognition and certification of a State home for nursing home care, a State must:

(a) Send a request for recognition and certification to the Under Secretary for Health (10), VA Headquarters, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. The request must be in the form of a letter and must be signed by the State official authorized to establish the State home;

(b) Allow VA to survey the facility as set forth in § 51.30(c); and

(c) Upon request from the director of the VA medical center of jurisdiction, submit to the director all documentation required under subpart D of this part.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101, 501, 1710, 1741–1743)

§ 51.30 Recognition and certification.

(a)(1) The Under Secretary for Health will make the determination regarding recognition and the initial determination regarding certification, after receipt of a tentative determination from the director of the VA medical center

of jurisdiction regarding whether, based on a VA survey, the facility and facility management meet or do not meet the standards of subpart D of this part. The Under Secretary for Health will notify the official in charge of the facility, the State official authorized to oversee operations of the State home, the VA Network Director (10N 1–22), Chief Network Officer (10N), and the Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114) of the action taken.

(2) For each facility recognized as a State home, the director of the VA medical center of jurisdiction will certify annually whether the facility and facility management meet, provisionally meet, or do not meet the standards of subpart D of this part (this certification should be made every 12 months during the recognition anniversary month or during a month agreed upon by the VA medical care center director and officials of the State home facility). A provisional certification will be issued by the director only upon a determination that the facility or facility management does not meet one or more of the standards in subpart D, that the deficiencies do not jeopardize the health or safety of the residents, and that the facility management and the director have agreed to a plan of correction to remedy the deficiencies in a specified amount of time (not more time than the VA medical center of jurisdiction director determines is reasonable for correcting the specific deficiencies). The director of the VA medical center of jurisdiction will notify the official in charge of the facility, the State official authorized to oversee the operations of the State home, the VA Network Director (10N 1–22), Chief Network Officer (10N) and the Chief Consultant, Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group (114) of the certification, provisional certification, or noncertification.

(b) Once a facility has achieved recognition, the recognition will remain in effect unless the State requests that the recognition be withdrawn or the Under Secretary for Health makes a final decision that the facility or facility management does not meet the standards of subpart D. Recognition of